

Agendas Affecting our Children

Recently I attended the Beaver Dam Pepper Festival and had a great time seeing all the exhibits and meeting all kinds of wonderful people. As I was watching the youth heat of the apple pepper pie eating contest, I saw a little girl who was competing. I wished her good luck but she barely reacted and seemed to shy away. Since I was dressed in full uniform and stand significantly taller than her as she is only about 4 or 5 years old, I understood, or thought I understood why she reacted the way she did.

After finishing the contest, I saw her again as she was with her family. I went over by her, knelt down and applauded her efforts. She again cowered away which now seemed a bit out of the ordinary. I reached into my pocket to get a junior deputy sticker and handed it to her asking if she would like to be a junior deputy. She accepted but said, "I'm afraid of cops". I asked her why. She told me that she frequently has bad dreams about cops coming to her house to kill her. I could not believe what I was hearing. Her aunt overheard what she told me and whispered to me that her niece had developed that fear because of the media. At this point it is important to note that this little girl is African American. I took the opportunity to reassure her that those of us that wear the uniform are the good guys and that we are here to keep her safe. I asked her if I could be her friend to which she timidly said ok.

After hearing this I was angered, not at this girl or her family, rather that we continue to allow the vocal few and the media to affect how our society views law enforcement. Even more so I am bothered that it is now getting to the point where that bias is affecting more than just adults, college students and even teenagers. It is now negatively affecting young children who are supposed to understand that law enforcement officers are those who they should run to when they need help. Instead these young children think that law enforcement officers are out to hurt them.

There are roughly 800,000 law enforcement officers throughout the country. We have roughly 2 million positive contacts with people every single day. Yet some in the media and some politicians look to use rare negative incidents to push an agenda. What's worse is that they fail to wait till all the facts are gathered and rush to judgement before any evidence is presented. Are there bad apples out there? Of course. Law enforcement officers are human and from time to time one slips through the cracks just like any other profession. However, law enforcement executives work very hard and do an excellent job of weeding them out.

I again ask our citizens to stand up and say enough is enough. Our children can't afford a future like this. We should not be allowing this propaganda to be affecting little children in our community. Our children deserve the right to grow up making their own decisions and not have their entire future skewed by those with an agenda. I grew up in the age of "Officer Friendly". I want that for my children and yours. Let's work together to fight this unfair and unjust bias against law enforcement. We are here to help and are all working to make Dodge County a safe and enjoyable place to live, work and visit.